

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

COUNTRY Bulgaria
 SUBJECT 1. Reaction to Foreign Broadcasts
 2. Prices

REPORT

DATE DISTR. 10 June 1955

NO. OF PAGES 2

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE ACQUIRED

25X1

25X1

25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

Reaction to Foreign Broadcasts

1. The broadcasts of Western radio stations transmitting programs to Bulgaria are listened by large segments of the population in spite of the warnings and the threats of the police. Unfortunately, these broadcasts are interfered with by special jamming stations.
2. The more popular stations are "Radio London", and the Voice of America, while Radio Free Europe lately has lost the few people and the little popularity that it enjoyed. The first two go less into details, and handle political themes with a sense of moderation that appeals to and is found more objective by the Bulgarians with normal intelligence and culture.
3. On the other hand, the broadcasts of Radio Free Europe are permeated by a strong polemic tone and provocations which unfortunately do not result in any effective action from the West aimed at helping the oppressed people behind the curtain. Moreover, the Radio Free Europe broadcasts, by citing names and events that took place in small villages, have resulted in repressive measures on the part of the police endangering entire groups and individuals. Also, by giving the names of persons who had escaped to the West, they placed their relatives in danger. It appears that the Radio Free Europe broadcasts are a source of apprehension not only because they fail to give any effective aid to the anti-Communist groups that might exist in the satellite countries, but also because they will aggravate their already difficult position.
4. The broadcasts of Western radio stations can be heard in Bulgaria with fairly good reception at the following hours:
 - a. Radio London - 8:30 p.m.;
 - b. Voice of America - 9 p.m.; and
 - c. Radio Free Europe - 9:30 p.m.

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

25X1

ATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC		USIA/IRI	X
-----	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	----------	---

Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "##".

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

-2-

Prices5. prices in Sofia:

25X1

Flour	4 leva per kilogram
White Bread	5 leva per kilogram
Black Bread	2 " " "
Macaroni with eggs	10 " " "
Regular macaroni	7 " " "
Rice	20 " " "
Butter	25 " " "
Buffalo meat	12 " " "
Veal	16 " " "
Sugar	20 " " "
Sunflower or pumpkin seed oil	12 leva per liter
Milk	3.50 " " "
Wine	7/10 " " "

Luxury items, such as coffee, tea, spices, etc. are very scarce and expensive (more than 200 leva per kilogram). Restaurants only serve meals a la carte, and the prices are very high.

6. Clothing items are very scarce, of poor quality and expensive. Below is a partial list of prices:

Shoes	200/250 leva a pair
Cloth for men's suits	240 leva per meter
Regular shirts	70/80 each
Nylon stockings	80/100 leva a pair
Artificial silk stockings	25 leva a pair
Men's socks, regular	16 leva a pair

25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1